

OFFICIAL DISPATCH

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DISPATCH NO. OFPA - 23902

SECRET

CLASSIFICATION

SEP 19 1956

TO

Chief, WE

DATE

FROM

KUTUBE

EE
Copy to: FRANKFURT

SUBJECT: GENERAL: Operational
SPECIFIC: Possible Munich Contact for Egypt and the Near East--
Prince Burghard von PREUSSEN

REFERENCE: OFP 438

1. Subject, born 8 Jan 1917 in Potsdam, is a grandson of the late Kaiser WILHELM II. [] has known him personally since 1946, since which time he has seen [] several times a year, either in Austria, Munich, or Paris, and once in the South of France. He has been impressed by subject's intelligence and forthrightness, as well as his interest in and willingness to work, the last-named somewhat unusual traits in persons with his background.

2. From 1939-42 subject served as a reserve captain in the German army in the G-2 section of a Division on the French and Russian fronts, but along with other descendants of the German imperial family was later dismissed. He then obtained a law degree. At present, he has a good position in the foreign office of the Munich Reinsurance Corporation (MUNCHNER RUCKVERSICHERUNG Ges.), one of the largest and most important reinsurance companies in the world.

3. He has already been an unwilling source of information for [] (see ref) re reinsurance deals behind the Iron Curtain.

4. In August of this year, when [] saw him in Munich, subject said he had gone to Egypt and the Near East last spring to discuss insurance deals for his firm. While there, he had an opportunity to meet various important Arab political and religious figures, who showed great interest in his family background--the Kaiser still seems to figure in their

13 September 1956

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memories as a great enemy of England and friend of the Arabs. Subject therefore claims to have an exceptional opportunity to learn the real point of view held by Arab leaders, some of whom also visit him in Munich.

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5. When [] asked whether he passed along any information he picked up that he thought of interest to German diplomats whom he met in his travels, subject replied that when wined and dined in German embassies wherever he went, he found himself amazed at the lack of knowledge the diplomats displayed regarding the Arab mentality and personalities in the Middle and Near East. He also made a derogatory comment in this connection about an ODYOKE representative he had met in the Near East.

6. When [] queried subject regarding contact with German intelligence, he said he knew only one such group, headed by (General) GEHLEN, whom he knows socially in Munich. He added that though he had some intelligence experience during the war, he has no desire to mix with the GEHLEN group because he does not want his name to appear on any list whatever as an agent or informer for them—he has little confidence in their discretion and on account of his family background he has to be careful to avoid unfavorable publicity.

7. At the end of September or the beginning of October, subject is going to Egypt for a visit of from four to six weeks; he told [] he was eager to hear the Egyptian point of view and learn of their activities first-hand in view of the present Suez crisis.

8. Because of his cover, [] did not press the intelligence angle, but as subject is extremely articulate and likes to talk about his experiences, [] considers it well worth while that, both before and after []'s imminent trip, subject be contacted by someone well enough informed on Near and Middle East affairs to brief and debrief subject. This could be an ODYOKE representative with authoritative knowledge of the area and an intelligent interest in its problems.

9. To facilitate this, [] arranged for subject to be invited to a dinner at which he also was present in the home of [] 8. Consul-General Edward PAGE in Munich, who is aware of []'s KUBARK affiliation and has proved himself very cooperative in the past. He would certainly be willing to arrange a meeting in his house between subject and any case officer the German Mission might designate.

10. [] happened to be in Berne on 11 September so to save time he gave a memorandum of the above to [] who was proceeding to the Frankfurt Station the following day; [] promised to pass it on to the Chief of Mission.

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